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SENATE RESOLUTION 122
By Haun

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Lieutenant Colonel Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's greatness, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home state of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr. served honorably and distinguished himself in service of the United States Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict; and

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WHEREAS, Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr. began his esteemed military career in April 1940 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina as a second lieutenant whose duties included training Army recruits to prepare for military service; and

WHEREAS, following the declaration of war on Japan by the United States in 1941, Lieutenant Clemmer served in a unit responsible for defending the coast of the eastern United States from Jacksonville, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina; the unit patrolling the areas where enemy submarines had fired upon and sank merchant and military shipping vessels; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Clemmer later joined the 78th Infantry Division and trained recruits in military arts at Camp Butner, North Carolina, and in field training in Lebanon, Tennessee and

WHEREAS, after the 78th Infantry Division was called to an overseas assignment in December 1943, he served as a U.S. Army unit commander in the China, Burma, and India Theater; Captain Clemmer also served as a platoon leader and as a regimental headquarters company commander with the 8th and 78th divisions; and

WHEREAS, from December 1943 until 1945, Captain Clemmer served with "Merrill's Marauders" and the Chinese Combat Command in Burma and China, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, Major Clemmer was a liaison officer to the Allied Chinese Army and was responsible for training the Chinese Combat Command forces in North Burma; he received the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters for meritorious service during enemy engagements in Burma and China; and

WHEREAS, following his World War II service, Dr. Clemmer continued his patriotic service as a training officer for the Veterans Administration and served as a leader and member of the Armed Forces Reserve Unit based in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, Uriah Clemmer was recalled to active military duty during the Korean Conflict, serving as the U.S. Army Unit Commander, First Bn., 61st Infantry, Fort

Jackson, South Carolina, and as Regimental Adviser to the 5th ROKA Division in Korea; he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during his meritorious service in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Clemmer exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, a native of Midway in Greene County, Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr., contributed to the educational progress of the state and served as a devoted and conscientious educator for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, from 1947-52, Dr. Clemmer served as a math teacher and assistant principal at Greenville High School; and

WHEREAS, following his return from Korea in 1956, Dr. Clemmer became the principal of Greenville High School, and under his capable leadership, the school developed into a comprehensive high school offering a diversified curriculum in both academic and vocational areas for both high school students and adults; and

WHEREAS, during his estimable tenure at Greenville High School, the school achieved certification by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, in addition to serving as a community educational center that developed programs based on community needs; and

WHEREAS, U.M. Clemmer distinguished himself as a capable leader in the education profession, rendering astute service as the president of the Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals and the East Tennessee Personnel and Guidance Association, and Chairman of the Tennessee Principals Study Council, and serving on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, from 1970-1981, Dr. Clemmer served as the chairman of the Education Division and as a professor, becoming a "teacher of teachers" at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, training many instructors and educational leaders who are still teaching today throughout the Middle Tennessee region and at other locations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Dr. Clemmer was selected as Tennessee's representative to work with other principals from across the country in an educational training and exchange program for the purpose of providing professional guidance and direction to school systems and school administrators in eastern Europe and Russia. During this time, he furthered international relations by opening his home to host and sponsor students from Thailand; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clemmer earned degrees in Industrial Education from East Tennessee State College in 1938 and the University of Tennessee in 1958. In 1972, he graduated from Brigham Young University with a doctorate in education, with an emphasis on community college administration; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his military and education careers, Dr. Clemmer has actively participated in several community and professional organizations, serving with probity as a valued member, president, and leader of the Rotary Club of Greenville, the Ruritan Club of Chucky, and the Retired Teachers Association for Greene County and the Eastern Tennessee Region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clemmer will celebrate his 85th birthday in July 2000; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Dr. Clemmer is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Virginia Rader Clemmer; their five children; and their ten grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Dr. Clemmer's stature walks among us as he works assiduously to improve the quality of life for all his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and a friend, Dr. Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr. is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest ideals of public service and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Uriah M. Clemmer, Jr. for his meritorious public and military service to the

State of Tennessee and the United States of America, salute his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.